

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph on page 2, lines 8-14 with the following amended paragraph:

While the above technology has been used for many years, it is well known that it is difficult to produce consistent molded products because the properties of the final product tend to vary despite careful attempts to reproduce prior results. The variability is at least partly due ~~to the~~ to the use of thickening additives, and leads to large quantities of scrap each year. Thus, the present invention focuses on the production of radiation thickened sheet-molding compounds for use in compression moldings, and provides a process that minimizes the variability of the compression molding process to decrease the generation of scrap and thereby yield better economic returns